

Appl. No. 09/784,665
Resp. dated July 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2006

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUL 21 2006

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on April 20, 2006. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. Claims 22-30 and 35 remain pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 22-30 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McIntyre et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,334,153. Regarding claims 22-30, claim 22 recites a seal member attached to the flanged end and covering the opening. The port in McIntyre et al. does not include a flange. Instead, it has a thread 34. Because McIntyre et al. does not teach or suggest a port with a flanged end, McIntyre et al. cannot anticipate a seal member attached to the flanged end and covering the opening. Indeed, what the Examiner is interpreting as a seal is not attached to an end at all and is instead disposed within the lumen 30 of housing 21. McIntyre et al. at column 5, lines 42-48 et seq. Based on these distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is patentable over McIntyre et al. Because claims 23-30 depend from claim 22, they are also patentable for the same reason and because they have additional elements that distinguish them further from the art.

Regarding claim 35, this claim recites that the port includes a proximal end, a proximal flange, and a proximal end surface defined by the proximal end and the proximal flange, and that a seal is attached to the proximal end surface that seals the inflation lumen. As indicated above, McIntyre et al. does not teach or suggest a port with a proximal flange or a seal that is attached to the proximal end surface (defined by the proximal end and the proximal flange) that

Appl. No. 09/784,665
Resp. dated July 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2006

seals the inflation lumen. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 35 is patentable over McIntyre et al.

Conclusion

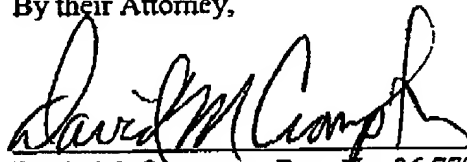
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Yiqun Wang et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: 7/21/06


David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicoller Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349